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Control: 16915
Rec'd: October 27, 1957
9:59 a.m.

FROM: Guatemala City

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 165A, October 26, 9 p.m.

DECLASSIFICATION DATE 6/4/75
PER Fumeres OFFICE ARA
FADRC FOI CASE NO. 5-B-201

NIACT

Junta decreed this afternoon annulment October 20 elections for President and congressmen and petitioned Congress call appropriate person to presidency and convoke new elections.

Presumably Congress will call second designate Guillermo Flores Avendano. However, we have reports Army opposes Flores and Junta and Army were considering plan whereunder Flores would become President only until Congress elects new first designate serqp* until new President is elected. Army favorite candidate as first designate is reported to be Enrique Peralta Azurdia, Guatemalan Ambassador Salvador. If constitutional forms are continued Junta authority in annuling elections will be questioned since this is prerogative of Congress. However, if Congress convokes new elections this implicityly confirms Junta action.

Reaction of possibly 2,000 persons in front National Palace when Junta made announcement was one of incredulity and disappointment and crowd booed decision. Some hours later Ydigoras appeared and in effect told crowd be accepted Junta decision, encouraged crowd by stating there would be no (repeat no) official candidate in new elections and told them go home and there would be no (repeat no) demonstration tomorrow. Crowd then broke up.

PR demonstration some 1,000 persons outside railway station received announcement with pleasure. Francisco Villagran Kramer spoke saying PR made several proposals to Junta but only one, annulment of elections and calling new ones was accepted. Villagran declared this was great victory and Ydigoristas were washed up. He called on crowd break-up, avoid getting mixed up with Ydigoristas and exercise restraint.

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